Weekly Colonist.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1886.

WHO'S THE TRAITOR?

After a discreet silence, which has extended over several months and caused him to resemble a setting hen trying to hatch a brood from a "clutch" of addled eggs, our esteemed morning contemporary has at last broken silence and expressed an opinion upon Mr. Duck's action in entering the ministry. The occasion that called forth the opinion was the debate on Tuesday, caused by the action of the leader of the opposition in arraigning Mr. Duck for alleged want of fealty to his "party", said party consisting of *six* very sick and forlorn looking gentlemen, who are each and all engaged in an indecent scramble for the treasury benches and who are awfully angry because the more they scramble the further off the prizes seem. Mr. Duck's position was so well explained by himself, the premier and the provincial secretary that it is unnecessary now to comment at any length, except to say that public opinion entirely acquits Mr. Duck of the accusation laid at his door. Having entered the house as an independent member, his action in entering the government was entirely justifiable. It is strange, however, that Mr. Duck's accuser should be Mr. Beaven, who, in 1878, turned a complete somersault and entered the DeCosmos cabinet after having voted the day before to sustain the McCreight government! His excuse that he did so because he was *told to* is too shittyshally to be entertained. Judas Iscariot kissed his master and betrayed him. Mr. Beaven's proper course was to have stood by Mr. McCreight and fought for principles in sustaining which the McCreight ministry fell. But the tempting inducement of a heavy salary was too great to be resisted. Mr. Beaven yielded to temptation and within twenty-four hours after he had voted to sustain the late government was found on the treasury benches supporting principles he had previously condemned! More of this anon. Our object in writing now is to refresh the memory of our esteemed morning contemporary. He has either a very short memory or is a very forgiving man. When he speaks of Mr. Duck's conduct as a "grand flop" and a betrayal of his party, what has he to say of Mr. Beaven's conduct in transferring his allegiance from the Standard to the Times and endeavoring to kill the former and make the last-named sheet the chief opposition organ? To the Standard Mr. Beaven owes everything. Before the former proprietor of that paper took him in hand he was a very humble and obscure person. In twenty-four hours he was snatched from very humble surroundings and placed on the treasury benches as a reward, no doubt, for his treachery to Mr. McCreight. There is nothing disgraceful in a man trying to rise in the world—provided he does so in an honorable, straight-forward manner. Politics are a "filthy pool;" but no excuse can be found for a politician who kicks his friend into that pool and leaves him to flounder there without hope of a rescue. This, Mr. Beaven who now rises like an accusing spirit to abuse Mr. Duck, did to Mr. McCreight. He did worse with the Standard. He deserted it in an hour of need. It was not sufficiently "spicy" to suit his ideas of how a political organ should be conducted. It wasn't coarse enough. It refused to call its opponents "thieves," "liars," "rascals," and "beasts" and, moreover, the publisher would not humble himself in the dust whenever the Great Beaven entered his sanctum. Mr. Beaven did not want a paper; he wanted a piece of putty; and, egad! he has got it in the Blunderbuss. It will say anything, do anything, swear anything to suit its master. The Standard had some independence. The Times hasn't a particle. The Standard refused to allow a ring to be put through its nose. The Times was submitted to the ring (Texada) and a kink in its tail besides. When Mr. Beaven talks of flopping, of treachery, of desertion, and of betrayal, he should bear in mind his bad faith towards Mr. McCreight and his treacherous treatment of the Standard.

THE FORT SIMPSON LANDS.

The evening organ of the stagnation party in referring to what it calls the "Fort Simpson Land Steal," charges the government with having violated a sacred oath of office, with having tried to place on a subordinate officer's shoulders the blame of having failed, through inadvertence, to perform a departmental duty; and with bad grace it pretends to contrast the conduct of a former chief commissioner when another departmental officer had made a grave mistake in an estimate of the quantity of cement required for the dry dock which led to serious results. Nothing could be more absurd or further from the truth than the position taken by the Times on all three points. Where is the violation of the oath of office? The evidence taken by the select committee three year's ago, clearly shows that the chief commissioner had no communication with anyone other than two colleagues in the ministry and the surveyor-general with reference to the matter. The application was first made to the surveyor-general who, finding a reserve upon the land, asked the chief commissioner whether it was likely to be removed or not. The commissioner being new to the office, and being uninformed about the matter, as the reserve had never been published, naturally asked why the reserve had been put on, and was told by the surveyor-general that he believed it was because, at the time, the Indian reserve had not been located in that vicinity. The commissioner, moreover, asked the surveyor-general whether he knew of any reason why the reserve should be longer maintained. That officer replied that he knew of none, and the commissioner naturally said then he would recommend to the executive the lifting of the reserve, which appeared to be no longer necessary to be maintained. Was there any breach of honor there? Was there any violation of any oath of office? Certainly not. The provincial secretary was right when he said that the whole thing was nothing more or less than the same small departmental error which, to exactly the same extent, had been made in 1879, when the order in council putting on the reserve had not been gazetted. The surveyor-general gave in his evidence that he would, in the ordinary routine of his office, attend to the Gazette notices being published, and he stated that the non-publication of the notice in that instance was a simple oversight, consequent on the large amount of office work on hand at the time. Is the bare statement of these facts an attempt to shirk responsibility? So far from any attempt at placing the onus, if there had been any, on anybody's shoulders the chief commissioner in his evidence three years ago distinctly stated that he assumed all responsibility. In this respect his confidence was in marked contrast with that of the government when the drydock scandal was the subject of redhot discussion in the legislature and the stagnation party were kept in their seats by the casting vote of Mr. Speaker Williams, who used to decide the most momentous questions with the words, "I vote for the government." Then when the helpless incompetence of the government was shown by the members of the drydock committee, the daily, almost hourly, cry was "I could not help it; I am not an engineer; I know no more about building a dock than I do about surgery." The less said about the drydock muddle and the government assuming responsibility the better it will be for the organ and the rump of that disorganized party which brought this fair province into a plight so pitiable that the electors at the polls routed it—foot, dragoons and artillery. It happens that the drydock evidence was printed and can be turned up, for although the Beaven government, ashamed of the record it presented, suppressed it so long as they held the reins, it was ordered by the present legislature to be brought to light again and bound in the sessional papers so that posterity might see how the stagnation party did things when they were in office.

A NEFARIOUS ATTEMPT.

During the discussion of the resolution on Wednesday calling upon the Dominion government to open the lands along the railway belt, Mr. Grant and other members of the opposition announced their intention of voting for the measure, and Mr. Beaven, leader of the opposition, had made no mention of opposing it, when Mr. T. Davie, the second member for the city, rose and said that there was an important phase of this subject which the opposition had not alluded to, and did not appear to consider, but which he must be fully informed of before he could vote for the resolution. The resolution seemed to concede the right of the Dominion government to all the lands in the railway belt, whereas the 11th clause of the terms of union entitled them only to the same extent of land as was set apart for railway purposes in the Northwest territory and Manitoba. Such being the case, before the house could intelligently vote upon the resolution they must be informed of the quantity of land set apart in the N. W. T. and Manitoba. Mr. Orr, member for New Westminster district, interrupting, said that in the places named only alternate blocks had been set aside. Another opposition member, Mr. Helgesen, not yet understanding the point made, supported the resolution and wished to see it carried at once. Mr. Beaven contended that owing to a difference between the railway lands act of 1880 and clause 2 of the settlement act, the whole of the lands along the railway belt had been surrendered to the Dominion government, and that this province had consequently no claim on any of them. He also claimed that he had pointed out this (as considered) fatal difference at the time of the passage of the Settlement act of 1884. Now we have carefully perused the files of the opposition organ of that period and although Mr. Beaven is very fully reported (indeed, he is believed to have reported it himself) in the arguments which he advanced against the settlement bill, on the 13th, 14th and 18th December, 1883, not a word appears to have been mentioned by him upon the subject matter debated on Wednesday last; and, so far as we recollect and can gather from the debates, the question of the quantity of lands to which the Dominion government are entitled along the belt was never raised in the house until Wednesday. Mr. Grant said he remembered Mr. Beaven having spoken to him on the subject. If so, how was it that Mr. Grant and others had no suggestions to make when they announced their intention of voting for the resolution? The attorney general and members of the government demonstrated clearly enough the fallacy of Mr. Beaven's contention, and showed that the settlement act gave no more land than did the terms of Union; but agreed that the question raised by the second member for the city as to the possible effect of the resolution was a matter for serious consideration, and, consequently, the debate was adjourned. Last evening the opposition organ, envious of the point which its party omitted to make, and which an independent member of the house was the first to raise, resorted to a column and a-half of its accustomed stock of abuse and misrepresentation. If, as now claimed by the Times, Mr. Beaven all along knew of the right of the province to claim alternate sections, how did it happen that that gentleman and his sick party never made a prominent point of it until mentioned by Mr. Theodore Davie? and how does Mr. Beaven reconcile the knowledge of his party and their organ of the existence of the right with his statement in the house that all the land had been surrendered to the Dominion? and, again, how is it that Mr. Beaven did not enlighten his followers upon the subject? and how is it that never a word upon the question was mentioned by the opposition organs, the Times or Standard, until Mr. Davie's utterances? We challenge the opposition organs to produce one paragraph in proof from Mr. Beaven's speeches or from leading articles in any newspaper before last evening.

A LAUGHABLE INCIDENT.

One of the funniest episodes of the present session occurred on Wednesday. Mr. T. Davie began one of his translucent speeches thus:

"There was an important phase of this subject which the watchdogs of the public (the opposition) had not alluded to, and did not appear to consider, but which he must be fully informed of before he would vote for the resolution."

Mr. Grant in replying to Mr. Davie paralyzed the opposition and convulsed the government side of the house by saying:

"The honorable second member for the city had spoken of the opposition, whom he termed 'watch-dogs' not doing their duty, but he must reply that a good watch-dog can never be made out of a cur."

The reader will observe that the only possible inference that can be drawn from this unhappy remark of the Cassiar member is that the opposition are "curs" and cannot be expected to make efficient "watch-dogs." The look that stole across Mr. Beaven's visage at this ridiculous "bull" (dog) was pitiful to behold. He looked as if someone had kicked him in the rear. Mr. Galbraith dove beneath his desk and bobbed up a minute or two later with a very "sick"-ly smile flitting across his lips. Mr. McLeese tried to crawl up the stovepipe; but his bulk prevented him getting beyond the first joint and he gave it up and glared as a baffloaded man in the gallery as if he intended to thrash him. Mr. Semlin disappeared behind his huge mustache and wished himself safe at home. Hans Helgesen studed the anatomy of a dried fly, which he pretended to discover in a crack of the gallery; and the member for Cassiar, under the impression that he had said something very clever, sat down and scribbled off an item of his own wit for the Times. The effect of the "bull" was intensely amusing, and the occupants of the galleries laughed until their sides ached.

Lorne Creek Gold Commissioner.

To the Editor:—In the Times of the 15th inst. "Skeena" makes charges against the gold commissioner at Lorne Creek which I think in fairness should be answered. "Skeena" says, first, that the gold commissioner might have collected more provincial tax than he did. My reply is that Mr. Graham, G. C., collected all that he possibly could, without seizing the blankets of the impecunious (of whom there are many) as permitted by law, thus exercising a discreet leniency which will meet the approval of all humane persons. Secondly, that the gold commissioner is not possessed of sufficient firmness. To this I reply that whether that gentleman has or has not the quality of firmness requisite for the position is entirely a matter of opinion, and in that of myself and many others the gold commissioner is both capable and firm in doing what he believes to be right. In the affair of the H. B. Co.'s store and Mr. Graham's general method with dishonest Indians, "Skeena's" only authority seems to be rumor. Thirdly, that uncorrificated Indians were working or prospecting mining claims at Kitsum-Kylum. I answer that, during the twenty-six years I have mined in B. C., I have known thousands of white miners do the same. In this respect the breach of the law carries its own penalty by leaving the claim of an unlicensed miner liable to be jumped. It has never in my experience been the practice of the authorities to insist on persons providing themselves with free miners' certificates; so that in this Mr. Graham has only followed precedent. In conclusion, I maintain that Mr. Graham by his moderation in administering the law is doing much to encourage and stimulate mining operations in his district and develop its mineral and other resources, and has shown himself as fit for the duties to which he has been called as "Skeena" is unfit to criticise his manner of performing them. If nothing graver can be established against Mr. Graham than the shortcomings alleged in "Skeena's" letter I am of opinion the right man is in the right place. Wm. Larkin.

Victoria, Feb. 17th, 1886.

Death of John C. Richards.—We are grieved to record the untimely demise of the eldest son of ex-Governor Richards, which sad event occurred at 8 o'clock on Thursday evening, at Erin Hall. The complaint was pericarditis. What adds to the poignancy of the stroke is the fact that the deceased is one of several children whom Mr. and Mrs. Richards have been called on to follow to the grave. The funeral will take place from Erin Hall at 2:30 and from Christ Church cathedral at 3 o'clock this afternoon.

FOURTH PARLIAMENT.

FOURTH SESSION.

Tuesday, Feb. 17, 1886.

Speaker took the chair at 2 p. m. Prayers by the Rev. Mr. Percival.

PETITIONS.

Mr. Orr presented a petition asking for the repeal or amendment of 41 Vict. chap. 6, relative to the Sumas Dyking lands.

Petitioners from many parts of the province relative to the examination of those practicing dentistry in the province, were read and received.

REPORTS.

Mr. Martin presented report of private bills committee, stating that all necessary forms of bills for incorporation of Nanaimo water works, mining land on Findley creek, Kootenay, and the Victoria and Saanich railway had been complied with, were recommended.

TELEGRAPHIC SCALE.

Mr. McTavish moved that a memorial be transmitted to the federal government praying that the charge for telegraphic messages shall be made uniform, after the fashion of letter postage, throughout the whole of the Dominion of Canada. Seconded by Mr. Helgesen and carried.

Mr. McTavish moved that in the opinion of this house great benefit would result if a museum were established, under the auspices of the government, for the constant exhibition of natural products—mineral, vegetable and animal—of the province, and that the government be urged to commence the formation of the same; this house being convinced that much benefit would result therefrom.

In moving the resolution the speaker remarked that while measures had been taken to make known our products abroad, no means were provided for their exhibition at home. He thought that a sample office, where specimens of the ores of the province could be visible, should be established; and, as the cost would be very trifling, commencement in this direction should be made. He understood that since placing his motion on the board a petition had been presented, having the same object in view. He trusted the house would take the matter into consideration.

Hon. Mr. Smithe complimented the mover for having broached the subject—one with which he was thoroughly in accord. He believed the nucleus of a scientific museum could be formed out of what had been formed with the object of affording the information embodied in the maintenance of a museum of that kind, to the general public. He believed it was becoming very difficult indeed to obtain really good specimens of Indian curiosities of workmanship; while the growing scarcity of certain birds in the province rendered the securing of specimens of them desirable. He believed the house as well as the government would be in favor of furthering the object of the resolution.

The motion was carried.

CONTRACT WORK.

Mr. Beaven moved that an order of the house be granted for a return showing all correspondence and public business transactions between the government of British Columbia or any of its members, or anyone acting in their behalf, and James Cunningham, Esq., M. P. P.E., since he was elected a member of this assembly, with a list of goods supplied by him, work done, contracts made, prices paid, or to be paid, for the same; also a statement of any contracts with the government to which said James Cunningham became a bondsman.

The mover thought that a casual glance at the public accounts would show the name of that gentleman appearing very frequently, such as in relation to the keep of prisoners, new gaol, erection of public buildings, roads, streets and bridges, etc., and it would interest the electors of New Westminster to know exactly how much that gentleman had drawn from the public treasury. The honorable member (Mr. Cunningham) had said that the present was the best government ever formed in British Columbia. How he arrived at that opinion was at present a matter of conjecture, though the returns asked for would no doubt assist the house and the public in perceiving the means by which that conclusion had been arrived at.

Mr. Cunningham said the motion was a very personal matter with him, and to assure the government would furnish the honorable gentleman with full particulars relative to the transactions that as a business man he had had with them. He was a trade as a means of living and was still compelled to follow it, even as the honorable mover had been, but who had since had an opportunity of becoming rich, for he had been chief commissioner in his time. He did not assert that he (Mr. Beaven) had done anything improper, but current report said he had taken advantage of his opportunities. The dealings he (the speaker) had had with the government had been entirely of a business nature; he had given them the worth of their money, and he challenged anyone to prove the contrary. He regretted to have to speak of himself so much, but was prepared to stand by all he had done. Failing to make any points against the government, the mover of the resolution now attacked the supporters of that government. If the leader of the opposition could effect anything by this course the honorable gentleman was perfectly welcome to do so.

Mr. Beaven said the last speaker had said he would not skirk the consequences of what he had done. The honorable gentleman would not be able to help himself. If he was not the same James Cunningham whose name appeared so frequently in the accounts he, the mover, would be very glad to know it; but if, as he suspected, he were the same, all he could say was that the honorable gentleman had been guilty of that which was entirely unconstitutional. Personally, he regretted to have to take the step he was doing, for it was the first time in his political career he had felt constrained to do so. With regard to the insinuation of his abuse of office, he would ask the honorable gentleman whose friends were in power to search the records and accompany such an imputation by proof?

The motion was carried.

The Hon. Mr. Robson moved:—Whereas, in an act passed by this house in December, 1883, entitled "An act relating to the Island railway, the grazing dock, and the railway lands of the province," it was enacted (*inter alia*) that "The government of Canada shall, with all convenient speed, offer for sale the lands within the railway belt upon the mainland, on liberal terms to actual settlers," and, whereas, little or nothing has yet been done towards carrying out the above recited obligation, and the lands referred to are still, for the most part, practically locked up against purchase or settlement; and whereas actual settlers who entered upon some of these lands in good faith are still unable to obtain patents to which they are justly entitled, and are by reason of long delay and uncertainty as to their holdings greatly discouraged and hindered in their legitimate operations; be it therefore resolved that an humble address be presented to his honor the lieutenant governor praying his honor to represent to the Dominion government the disastrous effects of the delay and uncertainty complained of, and page upon said government the duty and importance of carrying out the spirit and letter of their agreement by throwing the lands referred to open to actual settlers with all possible speed, and also by issuing without further delay patents for such of those lands as may be *bona fide* occupied by actual settlers.

The honorable mover said that as a government they had done everything to expedite matters in giving every possible aid and information to intending settlers, but the resolution was submitted with a view of strengthening and emphasizing the position taken by the government. Nothing had so retarded settlement in the province as the unconscionable delay on the part of the Dominion in regard to opening up the railway lands of the province. Large numbers of settlers who had gone upon the lands in good faith under a rather uncertain circular issued by the Dominion agent in this province, were hampered in the improvement of their pre emptions by the uncertainty existing with regard to final acquirement of the lands. He hoped the house would show its desire to strengthen the hands of the government in their representations to the Ottawa house.

Mr. Orr was thoroughly in accord with the last speaker. He would add, however, that there were other lands beside actual railway lands which were in the same position, notably the Sumas dyking lands, and it was desirable to ascertain in which government was vested the ownership of them.

Mr. Grant was sorry such a motion was necessary. If his advice had been taken the provincial government would have compelled the Dominion government to fulfil their obligations as contained in the settlement bill. He would support the motion.

Hon. Mr. Smithe said the last speaker seemed to think that when the settlement bill was being negotiated the local government had it all in their own hands. Any such thing as a guarantee from the Dominion government would have not only been impossible but would have caused the latter to refuse to make any terms at all. The authorities at Ottawa were proverbially slow. Sir Alex. Campbell had said he was in favor, personally, with what was represented to him as to opening of the lands and would endeavor to induce his colleagues to take the same view, in which, the speaker believed, he had succeeded. He had the utmost confidence that in the end everything contained in the agreement would be carried out in good faith by the Dominion. It was only the question of time which was the cause of complaint on the part of the provincial government.

Mr. Cunningham spoke of the hardship experienced by settlers on the mainland lands. They were unhappy in their uncertainty—a feeling which it was in the power of the Dominion government to dissipate. The present state of things was an injury to the settlers and to the districts concerned. He was in favor of the resolution and thought the government could be fairly asked to act in good faith.

Mr. T. Davie said that there was an important phase of this subject which the watch-dogs of the public (the opposition) had not alluded to, and did not appear to consider, but which he must be fully informed of before he would vote for the resolution. The resolution conceded the right of the Dominion government to all the lands within the railway belt. Possibly he was in error in thinking that this was a mistake. Under clause 11 of the terms of union the Dominion was entitled only to the same extent of land as was set apart for railway purposes in the northwest territories and Manitoba, and he (Mr. Davie) could not see that under the settlement act the Dominion government was entitled to anything further. Such being the case, before the house could intelligently vote upon this resolution they must be informed of the quantity of land set apart in the N. W. T. and Manitoba. If the entire 20 mile belt in these places has been set aside, then of course the Dominion is entitled to the same in this province.

Mr. Or—They have set aside only alternate blocks.

Mr. Davie—Then if that is the case they are only entitled to alternate blocks in B. C. It was necessary that further information should be given, and for his part he was not prepared to vote for the resolution until better informed on the subject.

Mr. Helgesen intended to support the resolution.

Mr. Grant said that he did not believe in one member stealing another member's thunder. The point now mentioned by the honorable member for Victoria city had been referred to by the honorable the leader of the opposition during the present session of the house and he (Mr. Grant) remembered the leader of the opposition mentioning the matter to him (Mr. G.) when the settlement bill was before the house, and he believed that he had also mentioned it in the house. The honorable second member for the city had spoken of the opposition, whom he termed "watch dogs" not doing their duty, but he must remark that a good watch dog can never be made out of a cur.

Mr. Beaven said the settlement bill of 1884 differed from the act of Mr. Walkem in that the words which were the safeguard of the province were left out in the first named bill. The second member for Victoria city had evidently overlooked the point he had that day at the time when he voted for the settlement bill. The graving dock was the only work that was progressing under the settlement.

Mr. Dunsmuir—What's that? What about— [Cries of order.]

Mr. Beaven—The settlers were in precisely the same position as they were under the Walkem government—they were allowed to squat on the lands and no more. [Hon. Mr. Smithe—No.] All the province had had to do was to give away the lands and receive the money—that was all it had to do, and it had done it nobly. The intent of the resolution was an executive matter, and did not call for the endorsement of the house.

Mr. Dunsmuir said that this point had been put into the ear of the opposition by a gentleman then on the floor of the house.

The Speaker—I must call the honorable gentleman to order. He has no right to make such remarks.

Mr. Dunsmuir—I'll say them when they are true. [Laughter.]

Mr. Beaven repudiated anyone having spoken to him; also Mr. Grant.

Mr. Galbraith wished the member to continue his remarks, but the latter, having been called to order, declined to do so. Mr. Galbraith then dilated at some length on what he called the humiliating position of the government in the matter. The mover of the resolution had represented himself as the champion of squatters' rights, and yet had been instrumental in turning many squatters off the lands at English Bay—lands which had been sold at $15 an acre, while squatters had been compensated at the rate of $200 for their entire claims. The house should bring in a strong resolution demanding that the Dominion government keep faith in their agreement, and that if within a certain time they do not throw open the lands the house will authorize its government to issue patents to those unfortunate settlers who were likely to leave the province.

Mr. Orr suggested that the debate be adjourned until it could be ascertained in what position the lands, set apart for similar purposes east of the Rockies, stood.

Hon. Mr. Davie was personally of opinion that the motion should be adjourned for the purpose of ascertaining whether all or only alternate sections had been reserved for the Dominion in the railway lands of the north-west, which materially affected the railway lands of this province. He moved the debate be adjourned until Monday next.

Hon. Mr. Smithe said if all the railway lands proved to be the property of the Dominion, then the resolution could proceed; if it appeared they were only entitled to alternate sections, then the province could assert its right to the remaining sections. As to the statement that settlers were no better off during the present government than during the Walkem government was simply absurd. Railway settlers then had no status whatever; but since the passage of the settlement act the Dominion government were pledged to respect their rights—the right to acquire their lands at $1 an acre. He explained the position of the "squatters" at English bay, who had been lawyers, bankers and business men, not *bona fide* settlers, whom he had always treated fairly and honestly, and above all the land which they squatted upon was not open to settlement, it having been leased land at the time.

Mr. Dunsmuir took it that all the railway lands within the belt had been appropriated by the Dominion government, and that that government had given the alternate sections to the C. P. R.

Mr. T. Davie said the leader of the opposition was in the same fix as in the Fort Simpson steal—he was very wise after the event had transpired. It was a case of locking the door after the horse had been stolen—but in this case he did not think that any horse had been stolen. Had the hon. gentleman taken the same position when this section was under discussion he would have scored a great success; but he had not. He could not remember and no hon. gentleman could remember the fact that any such suggestion had been made on the floor of the house, neither by a member of the opposition nor a government member.

Mr. Grant said that the hon. leader of the opposition, to his recollection, had mentioned the matter several days ago, and he should receive the credit of it.

The debate was adjourned till Monday.

SAANICH RAILWAY.

Mr. McTavish introduced a bill to incorporate the Victoria and Saanich railway, which was read a first time and referred to the private bills committee.

ATTACHMENT AND DEBTS.

Mr. T. Davie introduced a bill entitled "An Act relating to the Attachment of Debts." Read a first time; second reading on Friday.

DRY DOCK CREDITORS.

Mr. Helgesen moved, seconded by Mr. Grant, that an order of the house be granted for copies of the report of the commissioner appointed to investigate the claims of the dry dock creditors, with names of said creditors and the amounts paid to each; also the names of those whose claims were rejected, and the reason assigned for such rejection.

CLINTON SCHOOL.

Mr. Allen moved, seconded by Mr. Cowan, that a select committee be appointed to enquire into the management and working of the Clinton school with power to call for persons and papers, and report to this house; the said committee to consist of Messrs. Raybould, John, Dingwall, Galbraith, and Helgesen.

Mr. Allen said he had been induced to move the resolution from the fact that the Clinton school had been carried on without regard to the school act. He had documentary evidence to submit, which would considerably reflect upon the action of the education department.

Hon. Mr. Robson said that while he did not oppose the resolution he was glad to see it, he thought the honorable gentleman rather premature in condemning the education office, and as a set-off he would say that he thought it would be the people in the district who were to blame instead of the educational department.

The resolution carried.

POSTAL SERVICE.

Mr. McLeese moved, seconded by Mr. Cowan: Whereas it is considered to be necessary, in the interest of the public, that the postal service on the Clinton to Alkali lake be extended to Soda creek, by way of Chimney creek and Williams lake valleys.

Therefore be it resolved, that a respectful address be presented to his honor the lieutenant-governor, praying that he represent to the Dominion government that it is the opinion of this house that the mail service at present in operation on the route between Clinton and Alkali lake be extended to Soda creek.

Mr. McLeese referred to the convenience that would result from the extension of such postal service and road.

Mr. Allen said that previous to the government taking office they had merely a trail, but thanks to the liberality of the government they now had good roads, and the extension of the road as indicated would be of great benefit. He endorsed all that the honorable mover said.

Hon. Mr. Davie said he heartily endorsed the resolution, and it was only that day he had received a petition in favor of the extension of the road. He would further in every way in his power the suggestions made by the honorable members for Cariboo.

CHINESE AMENDMENT.

Mr. Allen asked leave to introduce a bill intituled "An act to amend the Chinese regulation act, 1884."

The honorable mover referred to the fact that collections had been less in his district under the $15 tax than while it was $5.

Leave was granted, the bill read a first time; second reading Friday.

EAGLE PASS ROAD.

Mr. Orr moved, seconded by Mr. Martin, that an order be granted for a return of all scrip or other paper authorizing or issued to G. B. Wright or any person on his behalf to acquire land on account of the construction of the Eagle Pass wagonroad, stating the number of acres and when located.

Mr. Orr said he had strongly opposed the road and the giving away of lands for its construction, and the public would like to know what amount of land had been granted to anybody on its account.

The resolution carried.

POLLING PLACE.

Mr. Allen moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Davie, that a respectful address be presented to his honor praying that a polling place may be established on the west side of the Fraser river in the district of Lillooet.

Carried.

VOTERS' LISTS.

Mr. Orr moved, seconded by Mr. Theo. Davie, that an humble address be presented to his honor, praying that a supplementary list of voters for the district of New Westminster from the 1st of September, 1885, to the 1st of February, 1886, be sent down to the house prior to adjournment.

The honorable mover said it was well that the voting strength of the different districts should be known before the coming election.

Mr. Helgesen moved in amendment that "every electoral district in the province" be substituted for the "district of New Westminster."

Mr. Pooley suggested that the resolution be amended to read, "That a return be granted for the names of voters who had applied to be placed upon the list up to the 1st of February."

Mr. Helgesen's amendment carried.

Hon. Mr. Robson presented a return orders in council, correspondence, etc., in regard to the sale of lots in James Bay in 1884; also, respecting the proposed transfer of the police barracks to the city of Victoria.

House adjourned until 2 o'clock Thursday.

A New Route to the Similkameen Mines.

A party will start out this week from Yale to prospect a short route to Granite creek from that town. It is claimed by a man who has been partly over the route, that Siwash creek and Granite creek head waters are very near each other, and that a first class and easy graded route can be secured by going over the mountain opposite Yale direct to Granite creek bringing the former place within twenty-five miles of the new mines.

Should this prove the case after an examination by the party, it will easily be seen that the route could be made the most desirable for gaining access to the mines. The Hope trail to Similkameen is a tortuous one and a great distance is travelled that would be saved by this new route from Yale, and this would also be the case if a wagon road is to be built to the mines. The projector of the new route has every confidence in its feasibility.

New Westminster.

(Special to the Colonist.)

Feb. 17, 1886

On returning from a slight fire on Front street this evening a young man named Price fell under a hose cart, which passing over him broke one of his shoulder blades.

Personal.

Editor Suter, of the Guardian, is in town.

Mr. F. P. McMullen, agent for the Sperry electric light, arrived by the Sound steamer yesterday, and is at the Driard.

Mr. W. C. Mitchell, C. E., late of the C. P. R. engineering staff, arrived yesterday from a visit to his old home at Newcastle, N. B.

At the Occidental: Mrs. Moore, Spokane Falls; Mrs. Dyson and son, Richmond, P. Q.

Libelling the Judiciary.—The Times' extracts from a Sound paper, a libellous reference to Sir M. B. Begbie, prefacing the libel with the remark that it don't believe it! Then why publish it, knowing it to be as everyone here does—false? This is a roundabout way of "getting at" a judge, which few will endorse. The insult offered to the lieut.-governor was unpardonable; but this second hand assault on Sir Matthew Begbie is puniishable.

THE "BIG BEND" OF THE COLUMBIA.

Recent Explorations Described.

Splendid Prospects---New Companies Formed.

Graphic Account from an Eye-Witness.

The certainty of a permanent mining camp being established in the above-mentioned locality in the immediate future induces me to furnish you with a few particulars thereanent for the information of your readers, many of whom, doubtlessly, are interested in mining matters. In writing of this place, it must be borne in mind that field to which I am about to refer is by no means a new one in so far as placer mining is concerned, its history dating back to 1865, when French creek, McCulloch creek, and I believe, Camp creek, were mined for their alluvial deposits, at that date the only class of mining finding favor in the eyes of the prospector in British Columbia. The bulk of the

GOLD ON THE FALSE BOTTOM

was taken out, not without considerable outlay, however, on wing dams and other placer mining contrivances. Some attempts were also made to reach bedrock, but with only partial success, and finally the locality was abandoned for fresh fields, which always possess an irresistible charm for the miner. For many years after, however, miners who had settled down to pastoral and like pursuits in various parts of the province would pay the place a summer visit and make the trip a profitable one in foraicking, etc. The three creeks mentioned lie within a radius of eight miles, and flow into Gold creek. In May, 1884, a party fitted out by D. D. Mann, the C. P. R. contractor, determined on prospecting in the Selkirk range for quartz. This party was joined by others until it numbered eleven men, with fifteen pack horses. It was decided to shape a course from Beaver creek on the Columbia river up Gold river, cross the summit of the Selkirks, and follow down Gold creek the estimated distance to French creek, being some ninety miles. Mr. Jas. M. Grew was elected leader, and from what I can gather, it is only due to him to state that but for his indomitable perseverance and energy the party would in all probability

NOT HAVE REACHED THE INTENDED GOAL.

The country traversed was very thickly timbered, cedar predominating, interspersed with belts of pine and hemlock, with dense undergrowth. Progress from this cause was necessarily slow. A trail having to be cut for the horses, nearly the whole force was thus engaged, the balance of the men bringing up the camp each night. The summer of that year happened to be a particularly wet one, and not a day passed but there was more or less rainfall. On the eastern side of the Selkirks the mineral prospects were by no means encouraging. On reaching the summit a magnificent stretch of grass country was met with, extending some five miles, flanked by enormous glaciers,

GAME WAS BY NO MEANS PLENTIFUL,

and with the exception of a few spruce partridges and a fine buck, the commissariat department received no assistance. The line of Gold creek was followed and French creek reached late in September. An extensive town must have existed at this spot, but it is said to have been first pillaged of all portable property and then burnt by the Indians after the miners had stampeded. French creek has quite a large body of water. On reaching this point the character of the country changes, and to those accustomed to mining pursuits instinct would suggest a mineral country. The next creek, west of this and about three miles distant, is McCulloch, and further west some four miles, Camp creek. These three creeks take their rise close together, about five miles above their mouth. Mr. Grew's party selected themselves as the discoverers of the quartz in the locality, but owing to the lateness of the season and a shortness of provisions were compelled to go out. On his return to the Beaver he, with his two partners, loaded up two canoes with provisions and other miners' supplies and left for the "Bend." The trip down the river occupied nearly three weeks, owing to the great amount of portaging to be done, rapid succeeding rapids for nearly fifty miles, and with over thirty-five hundred pounds of cargo, the progress was necessarily slow. On reaching the mouth of Gold creek in the latter part of October it was found that the snow was too low on the mountains to admit of anything being done. The "grub" was accordingly cached and the party came out. In the spring of 1885

PROSPECTING WAS RESUMED,

and discoveries made in quartz which, in a less isolated spot, would have caused a mining fever. A considerable number of miners from various points came in in the summer, and all expressed themselves highly pleased with the outlook. It would be no exaggeration to say that the whole of the basins which form the heads of these creeks are one mass of quartz veins, varying in size at the outcroppings from 10 inches to 20 feet. Several true fissure veins have been laid bare and steel grey galena (tillurium) has been found in large quantities, assaying silver 60. Prospecting for lodes has been chiefly confined to the head of McCulloch creek, in what is known as the Ground Hog basin and the head waters of French creek. The following quartz claims, amongst others, were visited by your correspondent: Barret and party hold a

SERIES OF QUARTZ VEINS,

one of which is said to have been kept on the record books for years past. Very rich quartz has been exposed, and the vein increases as it is worked on. Grew's party hold two claims in the Ground Hog—one called the "McKay," on the eastern side of the creek, another named the "Empress," on the west. Rich gold quartz has been taken from each. The "McKay" is a true fissure vein carrying on it foot wall masses of tillurium—80 per cent. as at present sunk on. One ton from each of the above three mines has been sent to the states for milling. The returns are not yet to hand. McVittie, Reid and MacArthur also hold veins sufficiently rich in free gold to set an orthodox

QUARTZ MINER

crazy. This party has ordered milling machinery from the States and have built a turbine wheel to drive it. In Champagne's vein free gold permeates the quartz in connection with white iron. Ward, Arthur, Dick, Green and other parties have also equally good things, and where all the prospects are so encouraging it seems almost invidious to single out any in particular, but those mentioned were personally visited by the writer. A majority of the parties holding claims intend erecting machinery to be worked by water power, for which purpose it would be impossible to pick out a locality more suitable, streams intersecting the whole country, the smallest of which would be of sufficient water capacity to turn the largest sized turbine. Timber for smelting and other mining purposes is plentiful in the immediate vicinity of the mines. In a future letter I will, with your permission, go more freely into the character of the quartz and other matters of importance concerning this locality. Viator.

Last Year's Salmon Pack.

San Francisco, Feb. 15.—Carefully compiled statistics by Field & Stone show the pack of salmon of 1885 to have been as follows: California cases, 48,300; Oregon, 599,400; Washington territory, 13,800; Alaska, 64,850; British Columbia, 106,865. Total pack of 1885, 835,715; total pack of 1884, 985,395; shortage for 1885, 149,580. The decreased pack last year and losses by sea amounting to 102,086 cases have put the market on a better basis than it has been for three years.

Marine.

[BY TELEGRAPH.]

San Francisco, Feb. 17.—Sailed steamer Alki; Nanaimo.

THE CANADIAN PACIFIC.

The Discovery of the Eagle Pass—The Great Overland Route.

The following is an extract from a paper by Mr. Walter Moberly, read at the meeting of the Historical Society at Winnipeg:

EXPLORATIONS.

I was well aware of the immense importance to the colony, as well as to the whole of British North America, of obtaining a direct line from the mouth of the Fraser river to the eastward of the Rocky Mountains, and when I had the honor of serving the Imperial Government, in the capacity of assistant surveyor-general of British Columbia in 1865 and 1866, I impressed strongly upon Mr. Frederick Seymour, the then Governor of British Columbia, the advisability of making a thorough exploration of the country south of the "big bend" of the Columbia river, which is in latitude 52 7' N., to the boundary line, and succeeded so well that I was appointed to take charge of and make those explorations.

The principal result of my explorations the first year (1865) was to discover the now celebrated Eagle Pass, in the Gold range, and I was the first while man that had ever gone through it, and I wrote at that time, upon a small cedar tree, when I discovered the pass: "This is the route for the overland railway"—a prediction which it is most gratifying for me to see verified, as the C. P. R., now runs through it. That writing on the tree was made upwards of twenty years ago by me, and I think it is very problematical, indeed, if there were another person in the world who, at that distant date, even thought of a transcontinental railway through British North America, and it is a circumstance worthy of record that the "last spike" on the Canadian Pacific Railway was driven in my pass, almost at the very spot where I wrote those words on a cedar tree.

In looking back to that time it is amusing to re-call to memory some of the events that took place in the colony. Before I had completed the explorations in the "big bend" of the Columbia and its vicinity I discovered a very rich vein of "argentiferous galena," and also a large piece of gold bearing quartz, but I did not find the ledge. Both of these discoveries were in the Selkirk range. I was most anxious to induce the Government to open a wagon road through the Eagle Pass, and had the line staked out, as I felt convinced it would open an enormously rich mineral country and put the colony into a most flourishing condition. I also endavored to get the Government to let me open a trail that would afford communication through the Selkirk and Rocky Mountains to the prairie country lying to the eastward; In my reports to the